

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
November 19, 2009

[LR11 LR12 LR13 LR14 LR15 LR16 LR25 LR26 LR27 LR28 LR29 LR30 LR31]

SPEAKER FLOOD PRESIDING []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the eleventh day of the One Hundred First Legislature, First Special Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Utter. Please rise. []

SENATOR UTTER: (Prayer offered.) []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Utter. I call to order the eleventh day of the One Hundred First Legislature, First Special Session. Senators, please record your presence. Mr. Clerk, please record. []

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President. []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal? []

CLERK: I have no corrections, Mr. President. []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements? []

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Dubas would offer LR25, LR26, LR27, LR28, LR29, and LR30; all of those will be laid over at this time. And that's all that I had, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 131-135.) [LR25 LR26 LR27 LR28 LR29 LR30]

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR11, LR12, LR13, LR14, LR15, and LR16. Senator Nelson and his wife Judy became first-time grandparents this morning. Martha and Steve Hultgren of St. Paul, Minnesota, presented them with a baby girl, Lauren Helene, 7 pounds 7 ounces. Congratulations to the new grandpa. Mr. Clerk, we now proceed to the agenda. [LR11 LR12 LR13 LR14 LR15 LR16]

CLERK: Mr. President, the first motion I have with respect to the agenda, Senator Langemeier would move to proceed to the election of the Urban Affairs Committee Chairperson by secret ballot in accordance with Rule 3, Section 8(a). []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Senator Langemeier, you're recognized to open on your motion. []

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Mr. President, members of the body, I move to proceed to the election of Urban Affairs Committee Chairperson by secret ballot in accordance with Rule 3, Section 8(a). []

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SPEAKER FLOOD: Members, you've heard the motion. There are no members wishing to speak. Senator Langemeier, you're recognized to close. Members, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is successful. We now proceed to the election of the Urban Affairs Committee Chairperson. The floor is open for nominations. Senator Price, for what reason do you stand? []

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I humbly submit my name to be Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee. As Chair, I will focus on listening to all the points of view and communicating with you and your constituents. I will strive to maintain the integrity of the committee and this institution. Finally, I will collaborate with all interested parties to create good public policy and to address the issues before the committee. We live in a big state with many different challenges, but I believe we're all striving for the same things--to give our communities the tools they need to serve their citizens. I will take that responsibility seriously and I humbly ask for your vote in favor of my candidacy. Thank you. []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator Price. Senator McGill, for what reason do you stand? []

SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. President, members of the body, I stand to throw my hat into the ring to run as the Chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee. I had the sincere pleasure of serving with Senator Friend on the Urban Affairs Committee for the last three years, not only as a member of the committee but as the Vice Chair for all three of those years. Under Senator Friend's guidance and leadership, I spent those years preparing to become Urban Affairs' Chair. Senator Friend taught me how to run a committee by encouraging open discussion and building consensus. I can proudly say that I had the support of all of the members of the Urban Affairs Committee. He taught me how to make differing parties come together to work out differences in bills or risk the Senator Friend style consequences. But most importantly, he taught me how you can be successful here in the Legislature by being yourself, speaking from your heart, and gaining the trust of your colleagues, committee, and interested parties through honesty and directness. A little about the committee, for those who haven't introduced a bill there. Last year we had 22 bills introduced into the committee and 13 passed here on the floor, 1 is currently sitting on Final Reading, and we have 3 that are sitting on General File. Whoever is the Chairman will have to guide those bills through discussion here on the floor. I was there for those hearings and those discussions. LB522 is a committee bill to clean up a statute we passed in 2008 dealing with the use of funds by volunteer fire departments. And LB525 and LB526 were bills introduced by Senator Friend dealing with economic development and the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act, and the other being about strip annexation in Sarpy County. Besides those issues in Urban Affairs, we deal with a broad range of issues from TIF financing to SIDs, natural gas, annexation, weed length, and handicap parking. I have been the Vice

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Chair of this committee for three years. I have worked with Senator Friend from the day that he resigned to ensure a smooth transition. I've worked with his staff and I've worked with members of the committee to select a new research analyst, who I'm prepared to offer that position to later today if I am elected Chair. I know the issues and the interested parties at play, and I've passed legislation that advanced from that committee, which came to the floor. We were able to work out some of the issues and it's a piece of legislation I'm proud to say I passed. I appreciate your support and look forward to bringing my own skills and knowledge to the position of Urban Affairs Chair. Thank you, Mr. President. []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Thank you, Senator McGill. Are there other nominations? Seeing none, Senator Langemeier, for what reason do you rise? []

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Mr. President, I move that nominations cease and we proceed to a vote. []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Members, you've heard Senator Langemeier's motion. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Nominations shall cease. We shall now move to the balloting phase on our agenda under subsection (c). I would invite Senator McCoy, Senator Rogert, and Senator Adams to the front podium for the purpose of counting the votes. Members, at this time there's a pad at your desk. Please indicate the last name of the individual of those two nominated that you want to elect to the position of Chairperson of the Committee of Urban Affairs. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will collect the ballots at this time. Have all members been able to cast their vote? Please raise your hand if you have not been able to give your vote to either the Clerk or the Assistant Clerk at this time. The votes shall now be counted. Senator McGill, 27; Senator Price, 21. Congratulations to the new Urban Affairs Chairperson, Senator Amanda McGill. Mr. Clerk, items for the record. []

CLERK: Mr. President, a new resolution: LR31 is a resolution by Senator Karpisek; that will be laid over at this time. Senator Hansen, I'm going to assume your announcement is no longer needed? Is that right? Thank you. (Legislative Journal page 136.) [LR31]

SPEAKER FLOOD: (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk, items for the record. []

CLERK: I have no further items, Mr. President. I do have a priority motion. Senator Stuthman would move to adjourn the body until Friday morning, November 20, at 8:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m. []

SPEAKER FLOOD: Members, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are adjourned until tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m. (Gavel)
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